NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Inside: Tips for garden shows, a look at flowers for moms, and more.

California GARDEN

May/June 2006 Volume 97 No. 3 $3.00

This summer, everything's coming up roses . . .

Photo by Jim Dery

From the President

Did I hear someone mention a *garden tour*? Without even hearing the details, my mind begins to conjure up scenes of magnificent blooms, foliage in green, gold, bronze, and silver tones, garden art, and interesting design features complete with the background sounds of bubbling fountains and birds. I confess, my curiosity is piqued and my heart beats a little faster when I hear those words. I've traveled as far as China, Ireland, New Zealand, France, and Amsterdam to join in a garden tour. Each country offers different gardening zones that influence the kinds of plants that can be grown, but each individual garden is unique and special in its design or feel. I was so impressed with the enormous gardens of Ireland, and I fell in love with the little backyard gardens in Amsterdam. The horticultural possibilities are endless. My camera enables me to recall the details of each garden when I return home.

For those who choose not to travel this great distance, countless wonderful garden tours are offered here in San Diego during the next few months. Some of my favorites each spring are the Point Loma Garden tour, the Mission Hills Garden tour, the Encinitas Garden Festival, and the CHIRP Garden Festival in Alpine. Our local tours offer gardens of various styles and sizes. Some are organized so that the gardens can be enjoyed by walking from one to the other, while others require a good map and some driving time in between gardens. Check out the SDFA website and the calendar section of this magazine for ideas and mark your calendars. Invite a friend to join you and don't forget your sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes, and a camera if you like. I find that I meet the nicest people who share a passion for nature and creating beauty with plants. So, I look forward to sharing a marvelous San Diego garden with you real soon. Happy Spring!

Dee Krutop

We Need Your Help!

Share your expertise with us and help make *California Garden* a better magazine! We're looking for freelance volunteer writers and photographers who can supply content. If you'd like to volunteer or would like more information, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762 or send an email to editor@sdfloral.org.

Photo by Jim Dery

From the Editor

With Mother's Day just around the corner, we here at California Garden thought now was a perfect opportunity to spotlight the flowers moms love most—roses. We called in rose expert Phil Ash to share with you some tips on how to take care of those roses in the coming months, even if you're planning a well-deserved vacation. So enjoy the roses you've worked so hard on tending to, and take some extra special care of them this summer.

Continuing the magazine's mission of providing all kinds of gardening information for beginners and experts alike, we've rounded out this issue with several other exciting articles, including an interesting look at landscaping and a tutorial on the judging that happens at garden shows. We've packed in quite a few helpful tips and tidbits of knowledge as well.

By the way, if you enjoy California Garden, please be sure to tell your friends and family about us. The magazine continues to grow through the support of our members and readers, and we appreciate it. If there's anything we can do to make this magazine more useful for you in your gardening endeavors, please write and let me know. It always helps to know how we're doing.

To all the mothers reading this, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day, full of all the roses you so richly deserve.

John Hogan

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Features

Those Rosy Days of Summer 6
Final Verdicts 8
Easy to Grow—and Great to Eat! 14
Sage (& Songbird) Advice 20
Preserve Your Beneficials 21
Plants for the Mamas (but Not the Papas) 22
The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty 24
It's Your Library 25

Departments

Dig In! 4
Now Is the Time 10
Horticultural Calendar 15–19
Reviews 26
Workshops 28
Affiliates 29

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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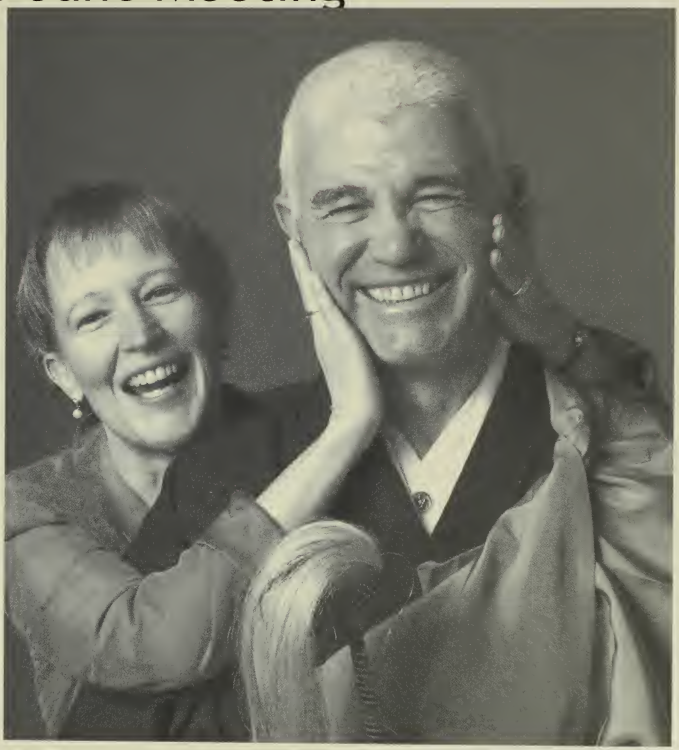
Dig in! News, tips, advice, and products you can use.

Don't Miss the June Meeting



Martin Mosko and Alxe Noden will present a lecture on Contemplative Garden Design at the quarterly meeting of San Diego Floral Association on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Mosko is president and principal of Marpa & Associates, a landscape architecture/construction company he founded in 1974. He is a graduate of Yale University and is an ordained Zen monk and abbot of Hakubai Temple. His award-winning gardens have been built throughout the U.S. Noden was educated at Cornell University and Boston University School of Law and has studied Tibetan Buddhism both here and abroad. She is an accomplished writer and photographer. Together, they co-authored the book *Landscape as Spirit: Creating a Contemplative Garden* (Weatherhill, 2003) and published their photographs and articles in numerous magazines, including *Sunset*, *Spirituality & Health*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Natural Home*. There is no charge for admission to the program.

In the lecture, they will present an integrated theory of contemplative gardening, a framework for design that applies in every situation. A contemplative garden is not limited by style or budget; it is a product of the meditative mind and can be built in any space. They will discuss the elements available to them as designers, the idea of balance in composition, and the metaphors used to help judge when that balance has been achieved. They feel that too often landscape design has been used as mere decoration of architecture or resolution of technical problems. Contemplative garden building requires an extra component: returning to the original purpose of gardens—creating magic in our environment.

Contemplative design, in their view, has three aspects: the physical, the energetic, and the metaphysical. It includes a proper understanding of proportion, a correct use of space, and the integration of light and color in ways that are both pleasing to the eye and comfortable to the soul. They consider the natural flow of the energy of the land, as well as its diverse characteristics of drainage and wind and light patterns. They strive to create a dynamic balance and harmony within the garden and with its natural surroundings.

Prior to the meeting, a catered dinner is available for $12 for members and $15 for nonmembers. Reservations must be made for the dinner by Monday, June 19, by calling 619-232-5762. Checks should be mailed to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622

My Favorite Pruners

Although used by bonsai specialists, the finest pruners in the world are carried by Joshua Roth, Ltd. (www.joshuaroth.com). My favorites are the Saboten Professional By-Pass Pruner (#146 in their online catalogue). They are superb for all types of standard pruning, including inch-thick rose canes. After years of cursing my (highly overrated) Felcos, I discovered these and have never looked back. The only garden chore they have a bit of difficulty with is getting in and cutting delicate flower stems. For that task, I use the Roth's Medium Duty Thinning Shears (#133). You can special-order both locally through Walter Andersen, or check out Roth's list of other authorized dealers online. Retail prices vary, but even the Sabotens should be below $50, and the Thinning Shears are less than $20. —Fredrik Liljeblad

New Tote Bag Available

"How can you grow anything without a chair? How else are you going to see what's going on?" This is a quote from Farmer Bagley and he was wise. San Diego Floral Association now offers a great new item so you can see what's going on in your gardening endeavors. The green canvas, insulated garden stool/tote bag is just what the Farmer ordered. This handy insulated tote bag opens up to hold cold or warm drinks, has handy pockets all around the outside to hold gardening tools, and opens up to become a garden stool. The tote bag snaps off to be used separately. It would also be a handy item to keep in the car—you never know when you will happen upon a parade and need a stool or need an insulated bag to keep cold items that way until you get home from shopping. You may now purchase this wonderful item at the SDFA library for only $30.00. (Or call 619-232-5762 to order.)—Kathy Taylor de Murillo

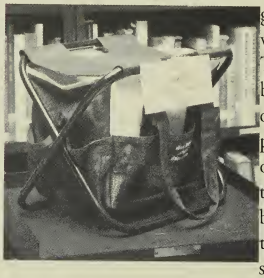


Photo by Jim Dery

Have a tip you'd like to share with *California Garden* readers? Send it to editor@sdfloral.org.

Put On a New Hat

Pycnostachys urticifolia—pycnostachya = dense + spike (flowers), urticifolia: urtica = leaves like the genus Urtica (stinging nettle), folius = from folium (leaf)—is an amazing South African native perennial. It grows to three feet tall and wide, producing copious five-inch-tall blossoms of densely clustered, cobalt blue "Witches Hats" on multibranching stems with attractive, wavy, soft green leaves. Blooming starts in November and continues into spring. Fast-growing and easy to maintain, it loves bright or part shade, good soil, and average water, although it is not fussy about water. USDA zones 9-11.

Annie's Annuals & Perennials (888-266-4370 or online at www.anniesannuals.com), the website where I purchased this plant, described it as their "Super Groovy Plant of the Year" for 2002. It has certainly lived up to its reputation and will most likely become a permanent member of the ever-expanding blue area of my garden. I have always wanted an all-blue section in my garden with as many diverse blue plants as will thrive in our wonderful climate.

With this plant, I am assured of blue flowers in the winter months, when many other plants do not blossom readily because of colder temperatures and diminished sunlight. Soon, I will transplant my Witches Hat to a pot for convenience, allowing me to move the potted plant to a sunnier location in the winter and a shadier one in the summer.—Sue Hauwiller

Photo courtesy of Annie's Annuals and Perennials

Those *Rosy* Days of Summer

BY PHIL ASH

You can make your roses a summer extravaganza—even while you're away enjoying your vacation.

Summertime rose garden chores: Remember to underprune, cleanup, water, and spray, and, oh yes, enjoy your vacation! Where and when does "enjoy" come in? Life in the rose garden does slow some in summer. Heat slows growth down a bit. Some pests disappear for a time. The roses are a tad smaller and stems shorter. But there are some unique and interesting tasks that are sure to catch your attention (and require doing)!

Underpruning aims at some of the excess greenery that has accumulated on your roses. We are talking about blind ends(where the cane has no bloom bud, just leaves) and rosettes (little puffs of leaves attached to the cane). This excess greenery can probably be removed. Concentrate first on removing the leaves from the ground up about 12 inches or so. Foliage here simply serves to provide a superhighway up which the spider mites can travel to attack your plant. Get rid of any dieback or crossover canes. Make sure there is room for your basal breaks to go through. The upper foliage on your plants is essential in both the nutrition process and in providing shelter from the sun for the cane structure. Sunburn of canes is the reddening and cracking of cane tissue on the side closest to the hot sun and can create a serious stress problem for your rose. Weeds and fallen leaves should be cleaned up since they too are ladders up the plant and hiding places for pests and pestilence.

As temperatures start their seasonal rise, warm winds blow through the roses, the sun is out for hours per day, and water transpiration and evaporation increases dramatically. As a matter of fact, water can leave the rose plant much faster than you had planned to replace it. The result can range from a wilted look to total rose stress and disaster. They say the rose needs a couple of inches of water per week. So get your ruler out, start watering, and give me a call when it's a couple of inches deep!

Silly, isn't it, trying to figure out what a couple of inches looks like? Let's first figure out what "the rose" is. The area occupied by the rose roots is where the water should go. The roots extend out beyond the drip line of the plant maybe 12-18 inches and down about 12-18 inches. The surface to be watered is probably a lot bigger and wider than the watering basin that you created. The total area could be 48 inches wide by 12 inches deep. The rose would like to have moist soil in that area. Moist is when you take your finger, shove it in the

soil, pull it out, and it comes out covered with a light layer of soil and feels cool when the breeze hits it. That's moist. The kind of soil also is critical. In sandy soil, the water penetrates easily and disappears just as easily with the soil being moist for a shorter period of time. In clay soil, the water remains for a much longer period of time and can easily be wet (not just moist), which the rose really doesn't like as it begins to drown, turning black, fetid, and slimy. The soil in your front yard may be different from that in back or alongside the house. The net result is that only you can define "enough."

Like many other plants, the rose would prefer that a continuous level of moisture be maintained. Watering heavily once a week and then allowing the plant to rapidly dry out places the rose in a vulnerable, stressful situation. During the stress, pests and pestilence strive to get a foothold. You must understand how water moves in your soil at various locations where you have roses growing. Water as you normally would and then check your coverage. Using a trowel, dig a hole and see how far down the water went. If you want to be fancy, use a soil probe. Is the soil moist or wet? A clean, fresh smell is good; a slimy, dank, fetid smell indicates too much water.

Watering heavily once a week and then allowing the plant to rapidly dry out places the rose in a vulnerable, stressful situation. During the stress, pests and pestilence strive to get a foothold.

Define "enough" at several locations in your yard. Remember that definition will change when the Santa Ana winds start blowing. Watch for the water stress indicators. Midday wilt of your roses may signal nothing but a problem getting used to higher temperatures, usually a short-term problem. Leaves cupping extensively indicate a real underlying need for more water. That "couple of inches of water per week" really has to translate in your yard to moist soil on a regular basis where the rose roots are.

Feed and spray? Some say take a break and let the roses rest until the August push. That doesn't make sense to me. You've got them going good, so keep it up. Sure, the plants don't grow as fast and the blooms are a bit smaller, but you still want roses for the house and to share, don't you? One of the prime summertime pests can be the spider mite. Get them started on a bush and the plant can be defoliated in six weeks, as can all the other bushes around. Watch for plants where all of a sudden the lower leaves start turning yellow. Turn the leaves over and see if there appears to be salt and pepper sprinkled on the underside of the leaf—that's the frass or excrement of the mite. Identify the spider mites using a pocket hand lens; the mite will be the tan, ugly spiderlike thing with a couple of darker spots on the body (two-spotted spider mite). Use the water wand and blast them off the undersides of the leaves. Do this a couple of days in a row, and then weekly, and you should be able to keep them under control.

Keep picking off leaves showing powdery mildew or rust. Overhead watering may help wash the mildew spores off, but it's liable to help spread the rust. Try one of the baking soda recipes if you wish to combat powdery mildew and the insects. A fairly standard recipe is a tablespoon of baking soda, canola oil, vinegar, and Ivory liquid hand soap gently stirred in a quart of warm water and then mixed with water to make a gallon of spray. Don't spray just as the hottest sun comes out because you'll fry the leaves, with edges and tips literally getting burned and black. Also, you don't want to inhale the mixture or get it in your eyes or on your skin, so some protective gear—like a mask, goggles, gloves, hat, and long sleeves and trousers—really does make sense to wear.

Last, enjoy your vacation! You really can take a vacation and the chances are good your roses will survive your absence—if they get water. Find a rose friend and trade off on watering while you are gone. Even if you have a completely automatic watering system, find a friend who will come over every couple of days and make sure the system is working. But enjoy your rest from your roses. Visit somebody else's rose garden while you're gone and stop and smell their roses (and think how much better your roses really look).

Phil Ash is a master gardener, consulting rosarian, and horticultural judge of roses.

Final Verdicts

by Dorothy Carroll

What Do the Judges Look for at Flower and Garden Shows?

It would be difficult to convince me there is a better place to live and garden than in San Diego. I "transplanted" here in 1977 from the Chicago area, having lived in Dallas, Texas, and upstate New York. I decided to move where the weather and I were more compatible, so I settled in San Diego and have never regretted that decision. I love that we can plant, and successfully grow, just about anything and we have many flower, plant, and garden shows throughout the year where we can exhibit the results of our efforts. Watch the calendars in *California Garden* magazine. I think you'll find at least one show of interest that may even entice you into entering.

Growing plants, whether for their foliage, flowers, or edible harvest, can often help improve an individual's physical and mental health. I'll leave that statement to be proven by the health experts, but I will testify that I have known many men, women, and children who have found great pleasure from their involvement in growing, designing arrangements, and exhibiting their gardening successes.

Shows are sponsored by local garden clubs and plant societies and they encourage exhibitors. As an exhibitor, remember these rules of the road, which will put you in a better position to win an award.

Long before you enter a show, it is your aim to make the specimen worthy to be judged. This takes weeks, often months, of patient feeding, grooming, and nurturing to bring the plant to the point of growth that will make you proud to exhibit them in a show. Gardening books are readily available; just be sure you read those geared toward San Diego's temperate climate, not those written for gardeners in the frozen North!

Next, get a copy of the show schedule and read it carefully. The schedule is the law of the show. Follow those rules exactly. One of the most difficult things we have had to do as flower show judges is to not give an award to an exhibitor because they did not follow the rules of the show. If the schedule says to enter three specimens of the same color and same variety, do it—no more, no less. Do *not* tuck in a fourth boom just because it looks pretty or fills the space in the container. Try to enter specimens of the same general size, shape, and color. Uniformity shows the judges the exhibitor worked with the growth habits of the plant to bring it to cultural perfection and the specimens were not a fluke of nature.

Groom your exhibits. Carefully remove dirt, spray residues, water spots, and other foreign matter. You can use a camel's hair brush or a nylon stocking to wipe them gently without removing the "boom" from some types of plants. Damaged leaves and petals should be carefully removed. As long as removal of damaged parts does not detract from the specimen, fewer points will be deducted by the judges than if you had left them.

Foliage indicates how well or how poorly the plant was cultivated. It should be left attached to cut specimens (unless the schedule says otherwise). Never use oil or plant shine on the leaves of any specimen to be entered. The judge wants to see the natural quality of the foliage.

Cut your stems long enough to hold the bloom upright without undue bending. Stems should also be in proportion to the size of the specimen. A short, thin, twiggy stem with a huge flowerhead would probably indicate some deficiency in feeding of the plant during growth. However, if that was the normal growth habit of that species, the judge would be aware of this and you would not lose points.

Bugs love plants, but judges do not want to see any bugs on your specimens at the shows, so leave the bugs in the garden. Check your specimens when you take them to the show and before you turn them over to the show committee. If you see any bugs, get rid of them. Some bugs enter a show on their own and a judge can pretty much tell which ones came in that way, so you won't lose points. A plant that is interwoven with long-standing spider webs or has mealy bugs, aphids, or snails is a plant that shows carelessness or inexperience of the exhibitor and the judge will mark it down accordingly.

Learn how to transport specimens safely without getting bruised petals, broken stems, or lost foliage. The judges will evaluate each specimen as it appears at the time of judging. Give yourself plenty of time. Arrive at the show early enough to fill out the entry cards clearly and tag your specimens properly. Have the right number of specimens, the right colors, sizes, correct stem lengths, and a few backup specimens to replace any that get damaged in transit.

If you become a gardener who shares your talents and you exhibit in shows, I cannot guarantee you will win any awards, but I do believe you will find and give added pleasure to the many people who view those shows. It is through our gardening and floral designs that we teach others how they can enjoy the many products of this wonderful San Diego climate. Have fun and share your knowledge.

Dorothy Carroll is a San Diego-based gardener and writer, retired National Council Flower Show judge, member, and past president of Village Garden Club of La Jolla.

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African Violets

Carlsbad African Violet Society

- To understand that some violets bloom more often than others. Be patient. These are the months when the stubborn violets are most likely to bloom.
- To jolt violets into a blossoming period with a "superbloom" formula of fertilizers from the nursery. This may only be used for a few months.
- To remove all blossoms when you feel more need for nutrients.
- To concentrate on foliage to maintain healthy base for producing blooms later.
- To use a magnifying glass under a lamp to search for tiny insects on a plant that does not look healthy.
- To keep your flower pots clean, using disinfectants.
- To watch for "tight" centers, indicating too much fertilizer or insects.

Begonias

American Begonia Society

- To watch tuberous begonias for signs of mildew; correct with dust and spray.
- To check cane type begonias and cut back if needed.
- To watch for insects; wash off with water.
- To finish repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.
- To feed plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.
- To water as needed—keep moist but not wet.
- To check tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed. Add fresh soil.
- To stake any tall stems.

Bonsai

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

- To develop a watering schedule, but avoid over-watering, especially the pines.
- To prune all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.
- To spray for insects as needed, using either a systemic or mild surface insecticide.
- To shape deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.
- To control any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.
- To fertilize trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.
- To complete the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.
- To place trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00 a.m.
- To prevent sun-burning.
- To rotate trees often to maintain proper shape.

Bromeliads

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- To fertilize the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouses can be fertilized year-round.
- To use a water-soluble fertilizer—one high in acid, using only 1/2 the recommended strength on the label.
- To cut new offshoots to make new plants during the

summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be half the size of the mother plant.

❁ To keep plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

❁ To check plants for scale. If needed, treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains, give same treatment in two weeks.

❁ To give plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around the plants.

Cacti and Succulents

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

❁ To water plants as needed. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

❁ To fertilize for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

❁ To protect the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

❁ To check any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from the rest of the plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

❁ To repot those plants needing it; use well-draining mix. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch between plant and pot.

❁ To repot seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

❁ To check entire collection for any pests or disease and treat at once to avoid infestation.

Camellias

San Diego Camellia Society

❁ To continue a feeding program following the bloom cycle, feeding cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon-sized plant or up to 2 cups per large in-ground plant. Feed every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

❁ To mulch plants, keeping mulch 2 or so inches away from plant trunk. Mulching helps keep the shallow roots cool and moist.

❁ To prune out any unwanted new growth. Shape as desired and thin out center of plants.

❁ To spray for insects as they appear. Hose off aphids. Check with your local nursery for organic ways to treat loopers and mites.

❁ To establish and maintain a uniform watering schedule. Camellias are not water-hungry, but they should never be allowed to go dry. Be sure to water well the day before feeding.

Dahlias

San Diego County Dahlia Society

❁ To feed with low-nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.

❁ To spray weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

❁ To water when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

❁ To plant new varieties and give regular care for growing.

❁ To be sure to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

❁ To pinch out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

Epiphyllums

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

❁ To prune plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

❁ To put out snail bait and watch for other pests. Try Sluggo, the organic snail bait now available at most garden centers and nurseries.

❁ To remove wilted flowers by cutting about ¾-inch out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.

❁ To take care in watering. Do not allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but not wet.

❁ To give plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

❁ To stake long, spindly growth.

❁ To protect foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

Now is the time

Ferns

San Diego Fern Society

- To remove dead fronds.
- To plant spores. (Why not plant a fern grotto in a shady spot around your yard?)
- To use a high-nitrogen fertilizer, liquid or pellets, twice a month.
- To spray for aphids and scale as needed.
- To water thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas and using mulch to hold in the dampness.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Co-Op Extension

- To irrigate thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning one-third of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).
- To remove grass and weeds from soil under the tree's canopy.
- To apply a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from trunk to protect trees from crown rot.
- To complete thinning apples, pears, and stone fruit after "June drop."
- To remove any suckers growing from rootstock.
- To wash trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew, and pests like aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites.
- To spray walnuts with Sevin when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

Irises

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

- To allow cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. They may be placed in a vitamin B solution for a while before planting.
- To have beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure into the soil before planting.
- To watch for aphids. You may use a systemic insecticide.
- To feed spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- To keep watering all the irises that are still blooming.
- To feed Siberians after blooming with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.
- To feed Japanese irises with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

Orchids

San Diego County Orchid Society

- To observe the weather and be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight. Use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass overhead.
- To maintain pest control against red spider, mealy bug, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs (release them in the evening) or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.
- To avoid sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot, dry days.
- To remember that plants need good air circulation and proper light.
- To visit the San Diego Floral Association library to check out books on orchid care.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter

- To move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm, full sun.
- To start watering and fertilizing with a low-nitrogen fertilizer like 3-10-10.
- To take cuttings and prune; prune only to shape the plant.
- To repot plants and "top up" larger plants; this is to remove some of the soil from the top and replace it with a fresh mix of 1/2 cactus mix, 1/4 #3 pearlite, and 1/4 wormgold plus. Keep soil at level as before.
- To expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

Roses

San Diego Rose Society

❁ To practice the habit of breaking off spent blooms as you enjoy your rose garden. This is helping the plants produce new growth at the lower part of the stem.

❁ To cut blooms at their peak and enjoy them in floral arrangements or share them with friends and neighbors. Use sharp pruners and cut above a set of five leaflet leaves to encourage new growth for more blooms. Immediately put the cut roses into water and recut the stems under water in the house when you get ready to arrange your flowers for longer lasting arrangements.

❁ To protect the new basals that were beginning to grow from the bud union during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into large candelabras. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating from a high five-leaflet. Treat this growth with care; it is the new wood for next year's blooms.

❁ To continue to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in the early morning.

❁ To maintain a vigilant watch for rust on the undersides of the leaves. It helps if the bushes have a clean area around them.

❁ To water your roses according to their needs and your location, usually twice a week. A well-defined basin in the soil at the drip line of each bush is ideal and also appropriate to scatter fertilizer.

❁ To discard varieties and bushes that fail in your garden and replace with new bushes. Check with local nurseries and do research to find out which roses are best for your area.

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Co-Op Extension

❁ To plant warm-season crops, requiring warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumbers, gourds, luffas, melons, squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflowers, tomatoes, and tender herbs.

❁ To plant pumpkins in late June for Halloween.

❁ To stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

❁ To apply nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; when cucurbits begin to produce runners; when eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes begin to bloom (and again a month later); and, for beans, for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet or row, apply 1/3 to 1/2 cup of ammonium sulfate or 1/4 cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants and then irrigate thoroughly.

❁ To check plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are 1 foot tall to control russet mites. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect from cutworms.

Vegetables, Annuals

UC Cooperative Extension Publications

❁ To put in transplants of eggplant, sweet potato, tomato, African daisy, celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigold, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglosssis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.

❁ To put in seeds of beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, green onions, parsley, parsnips, peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips, ageratum, amaranthus, balsum, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignotette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginian, and zinnias.

❁ To plant a wonderful edible garden to enjoy all summer.

Easy to Grow—and Great to Eat!

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

Gardening isn't necessarily growing ornamental plants and grasses. It is also very rewarding when you grow vegetables and fruits. Much of the culture is the same.

Now is your chance to grow lettuces. The four most prevalent varieties are the Romaine or Cos, Iceberg, Greenleaf, and the Bibb or Boston. There are other leafy plants such as escarole, Chinese cabbage, mustard leaves, and spinach, which can add to the list of salad plants.

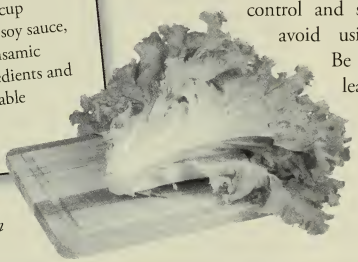
Lettuce is a cool weather crop and can be grown almost the year-round in areas of no frost and sustained low temperatures. You can sow the seeds in the ground or in flats to be transferred later after they attain some good leaf growth. Start out with fertile loamy soil that drains well. After they sprout, they will need lots of nutrients high in nitrogen to promote leaf growth. At least a half day of sun is needed. After you have gotten your crops growing well, thinning and spacing assume a lot of importance. They should be separated by at least a foot. Also, space your planting times so you can have a succession of maturing plants over the growing season. As the lettuces start to reach maturity, you can pick off the ripe outer leaves and let the plant continue to grow for a longer period. Harvest when the head is very green and before the plants send up a seed-bearing spike. If lettuce is allowed to go to seed, it can become bitter tasting.

Pests—snails, slugs, pill bugs, and aphids—can be troublesome. Try to rid the pests by hand control and stiff hosing and avoid using insecticides. Be sure to wash the leaves well before using.

COMBO SALAD

6 large romaine leaves
6 outer leaves from an iceberg head
1 large tomato cut into 16 pieces
1/2 large cucumber, peeled and sliced very thin
Add onions, radishes, and red cabbage if desired.

Cut the leaves into bite-size pieces. For the dressing, mix ¼-cup mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon soy sauce, and 2 tablespoons of balsamic vinegar. Mix these ingredients and toss well with the vegetable ingredients. Serve.



Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

San Diego Horticultural Society

❖ **Special Presentation** ❖

Handkerchief Gardens: Creating Small Space Magic

Enjoy an evening with award-winning garden writer **Sharon Lovejoy**, who will share a medley of innovative, classic, and whimsical design ideas to add drama, texture, color, and life to even the tiniest garden. See plant combinations and ideas perfect for the sun-drenched gardens of San Diego.

Monday, May 8, 7:00pm

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

Reserve your place now – space is limited
Come and bring a friend!
Sharon's books will be available for sale

$15/SDHS members, $18/ non-members

Reserve on-line at sdhortsoc.org
or call (858) 792-6715

San Diego Horticultural Society

June Calendar of Events

June 3 | Saturday

San Diego Floral Association's library of thousands of garden-related books is open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month. Also open Monday through Friday. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $15 a year, which includes *California Garden* magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619-232-5762.

Walter Andersen Nursery class on fuchsias at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, 619-224-8271 for information. Also, class on xeriscape gardening at 9:30 a.m. at the Walter Andersen Nursery at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway; 858-513-4900 for information.

June 3 & 4 | Saturday & Sunday

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society annual show and sale. Courtyard sale 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday, and 10 – 4 p.m., Sunday. Open to the public. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free.

June 10 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery class on children's gardening at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; 619-224-8271 for information. Also, class on carnivorous plants featuring Al Hutchins, Carnivorous Plant Society, guest speaker, at the Walter Andersen Nursery at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway; 858-513-4900 for information.

2006 San Diego County Fair begins and runs through July 4. The theme is "Ride the Tide to Fun." The fair opens at 10 a.m. daily. Closed Mondays, except July 3. The flower and garden show at the fair is called "Water, With or Without It" and features landscape displays and gardens, designer niches, floral designs, specimen blooms, flower and garden accessories, container and hanging plants, bonsai, miniature gardens, and birdhouses. Over $75,000 in prize money will be given out for the flower and garden show. 858-792-4273 or www.sdfair.com.

June 17 | Saturday

The San Diego Floral Association's library of thousands of garden-related books is open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month. Also open Monday through Friday. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $15 a year, which includes *California Garden* magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619-232-5762.

San Diego County Master Gardeners' plant sale from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Large selection of plants propagated by Master Gardeners and donated by local nurseries available. Master Gardener Hotline, 858-694-2860, for additional details.

Walter Andersen Nursery class on fruit tree care/summer pruning and Dave Wilson nursery fruit tasting from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; 619-224-8271 for information. Also, a class on summer flowers will be taught at the Walter Andersen Nursery at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway; 858-513-4900 for information.

June 16-17 | Friday and Saturday

2006 American Hemerocallis Society Region 7 Meeting, Ramada Inn & Conference Center, 5550 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, CA 92111. Registration and reception 5–7 p.m. Tour buses will provide transportation for the three-garden tour and lunch at Chin's on Saturday, June 17, from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Banquet, guest speaker, auction 5–10 p.m. Saturday. Registration $80 per person if postmarked by May 22. Youth registration $40. This includes bus transportation, lunch at Chin's, and banquet Saturday night. Banquet only is $45. There will be free plants for each member participating in the three-garden tour. No registrations will be taken at the door. Contact Jeanine Lussier, 11720 Mt. Sterling Ct., Alta Loma, CA 91737; 951-675-7550, email: jlussier@calstate.edu.

June 20 | Tuesday

San Diego Floral Association general meeting at 7 p.m. Martin Mosko and Alxe Noden of Marpa and Associates, a landscape architecture/construction company from Colorado, present a lecture on an integrated theory of contemplative gardening. Free. Preceded by social and catered dinner at 6 pm. Members $12, nonmembers $15. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619-232-5762 or www.sdfloral.org.

June 24 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery class on tropical fruits in San Diego at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego; 619-224-8271 for information. Also, a class on summer fruit tree pruning will be taught at the Walter Andersen Nursery at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway; 858-513-4900 for information.

June 24 & 25 | Saturday & Sunday

Botanical Art Club Show, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Deadline for submission to horticultural calendar for the July/August issue is May 29. Email event info to calendar@sdfloral.org. San Diego Floral Association is not responsible for typos, last-minute changes, or any information submitted late.

May 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Floral Design Forum "Creative Designs of NGCI"	2 "Two Sides to Every Story—A Duo Design" flower-arranging class	3 San Diego Floral Association's library open 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	4	5	6 Clairemont Town Council's 10th Annual Clairemont Garden Tour Sage & Songbirds Festival Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale
7 Sage & Songbirds Festival Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale	8 "Handkerchief Gardens: Creating Small Space Magic"	9 San Diego Floral Association flower-arranging class "Beach Combing" San Diego Geranium Society monthly meeting	10 "Bonita in Bloom" 10th annual garden tour Point Loma Garden Club monthly meeting	11	12	13 Mission Hills Garden Walk Nativescapes guided tours at the Wild Animal Park Epiphyllum Society early sale La Jolla Gardeners' Market San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting
14 The San Diego Epiphyllum Society's 35th Annual Mother's Day Show	15	16 San Diego Floral Association flower-arranging class "Sound of Music—A Vibratile Design with Sound"	17	18	19	20 Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival 2006 San Diego Geranium Society Show "Maypole Fantasy"
21 San Diego Geranium Society Show "Maypole Fantasy"	22	23 San Diego Floral Association flower-arranging class "Victorian Era—An Old-Fashioned or a Line-Mass Design"	24 Shizisan Shinka-Ryu Demonstration	25	26	27 Palm and cycad sale at Quail Botanical Gardens Bromeliad Study Group show Historical tour of Encinitas EpiConX at the San Diego Wild Animal Park
28 Bromeliad Study Group show and sale 20th anniversary historical tour of Encinitas EpiConX at the San Diego Wild Animal Park Southern California Plumeria Society open meeting	29	30	31			

June 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 San Diego Floral Association's library open Walter Andersen Nursery classes on fuchsias and xeriscape gardening San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society annual show and sale
4 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society annual show and sale	5	6	7	8	9	10 Walter Andersen Nursery classes on children's gardening and carnivorous plants 2006 San Diego County Fair begins
11	12	13	14	15	16 2006 American Hemerocallis Society Region 7 Meeting (Friday and Saturday)	17 The San Diego Floral Association's library open San Diego County Master Gardeners' plant sale Walter Andersen Nursery classes on fruit tree care/summer pruning and summer flowers
18	19	20 San Diego Floral Association general meeting at 7 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Walter Andersen Nursery classes on tropical fruits and summer fruit tree pruning Botanical Art Club Show
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May Calendar of Events

May 1 | Monday

Floral Design Forum of the Palomar District of California Garden Clubs: "Creative Designs of NGCI." Local designers will demonstrate 15 creative designs from the NCGI handbook. Critiquing will be by Emeritus Judge Adrienne Green. 12:30 p.m., The Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad, CA. $8

May 2 | Tuesday

Flower arranging class sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association. "Two Sides to Every Story—A Duo Design." Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher. First in a two-class series. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and your lunch. Cost: $50 for two classes, or $30 for the single session. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, call SDFA at 619-232-5762.

May 6 | Saturday

San Diego Floral Association's library of thousands of garden-related books is open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month. Also open Monday through Friday. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $15 a year, which includes *California Garden* magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619-232-5762.

Clairemont Town Council's 10th Annual Clairemont Garden Tour, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets for the self-guided tour are $10.00 each and sold at the UPS Store, 4809 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont Town Square. Patricia Hinkley: pandz3@earthlink.net

May 6 & 7 | Saturday & Sunday

Sage & Songbirds Festival. Garden tours, live butterflies, raptors and hummingbirds, educational seminars, garden-related arts and crafts, and more will be featured during the 9th Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival in Alpine. The festival will be held in the open concert area at Viejas Outlet Center. Admission is free. 619-445-7675 or www.chirp.org.

Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale presented by Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, 17040 Avenida Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA. 858-756-1554.

May 8 | Monday

"Handkerchief Gardens: Creating Small Space Magic" by horticulturist Sharon Lovejoy at 7 p.m. at Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Sponsored by the San Diego Horticultural Society, www.sdhortsoc.org.

May 9 | Tuesday

"Beach Combing," a flower-arranging class sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association, with teacher Velma West. Use of wood, shells, or an underwater design. Bring container, clippers, flowers, and your lunch. Second in a two-class series. Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, call SDFA at 619-232-5762.

San Diego Geranium Society monthly meeting, with a workshop in preparation of May's plant show and sale, at 7 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Plant raffle and refreshments. Free.

May 10 | Wednesday

"Bonita in Bloom" 10th annual garden tour sponsored by Bonita Valley Garden Club from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; lunch served 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tickets $15 in advance, $20.00 at the door. Box lunch $10 by advance purchase only. Pick up tickets beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902. Tickets: Vera Matthias, 619-479-0429 or Marge Greer, 619-479-7177.

Point Loma Garden Club monthly meeting at 10 a.m. at the Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego. Carole Brown, owner of Brown's Herbs, presents "Useful Herbs for the Home Gardener," and a workshop on propagating plants will be conducted by club member Dale Rekus at noon. For reservations and information, contact Workshop Chair at workshop@plgc.org. www.plgc.org

May 13 | Saturday

2006 Mission Hills Garden Walk: "Restful Sanctuaries, Gardens of Tranquility," sponsored by the Mission Hills Garden Club, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets $15.00 in advance; $20.00 day of walk. Self-guided walk begins at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Ft. Stockton Dr., San Diego, CA 92103. Maps given out beginning at 10 a.m. Purchase tickets at Mission Hills Nursery, Walter Andersen's Nursery (Point Loma), or Cedros Gardens Nursery (Encinitas) or by mail. Send check and SASE to Mission Hills Garden Club, 4019 Goldfinch St. #166, San Diego, CA 92103. 619-543-9388.

Nativescapes Botanical Garden guided tours at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, sponsored by the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, at 10 a.m. Free with Wild Animal Park admission. Call Pat Sigg, 858-487-2629.

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society will have an early bird sale 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. the day before its Mother's Day show. Society members will be available to answer questions about growing epis and there will be hundreds of cuttings to choose from.

La Jolla Garden Club Gardeners' Market from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Washington Mutual Bank patio, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla, featuring color bowls, established annuals and perennials, and fresh flower arrangements for Mother's Day.

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 1 – 4 p.m. www.sdcss.com.

May 14 | Sunday

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society's 35th Annual Mother's Day Show, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., room 101 and patio, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com.

May 16 | Tuesday

"Sound of Music—A Vibratile Design with Sound" flower-arranging class, sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association, taught by Velma West. First in a two-class series. Cost: $50 for two-class series or $30 for the single class. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, call SDFA at 619-232-5762.

May 20 | Saturday

Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Cuyamaca College Campus. Plant sale, educational displays, entertainment, food, and children's activities. www.cuyamaca.edu

May 20 & 21 | Saturday & Sunday

San Diego Geranium Society Show "Maypole Fantasy" from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Choose from many varieties of zonal, regal, and ivy geraniums. Courtyard and Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Jim Budlove, 619-287-6299.

May 23 | Tuesday

"Victorian Era—An Old-Fashioned or a Line-Mass Design" flower-arranging class sponsored by San Diego Floral Association and taught by: Velma West. Second in a two-class series. Cost: $50 for two-class series or $30 for the single class. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, call SDFA at 619-232-5762.

May 24 | Wednesday

Demonstration of Shizisan Shinka-Ryu school of Japanese flower-arranging and Japanese cooking demonstration by Ikebana International at 10 a.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

May 27 | Saturday

Palm and cycad sale at Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr. in Encinitas. Free with the price of admission and free for members. General admission fees are $8 for adults, $5 for seniors, $3 for children 3–12, and free for children under 3. www.qbgardens.com.

May 27 & 28 | Saturday & Sunday

Bromeliad Study Group show and sale. Saturday noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Lynn Diehlman, 619-220-4909 or lynnd@adenc.com

20th anniversary historical tour of Encinitas. Contact Maggie Houlihan, 760-685-5543 or Fred Caldwell, 760-942-2346.

EpiConX at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Garden tours, wine tasting, winery tour, lunch and more. Sponsored by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. Contact Mildred Mikas, 858-485-5414 or mvmikas@earthlink.net.

May 28 | Sunday

Southern California Plumeria Society open meeting, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Room 102, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Joy Herzog, 619-443-4795 or www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com.

Ongoing Events

BALBOA PARK AND SAN DIEGO ZOO

Plant Day at the Zoo. Third Friday of each month. See approximately 700,000 plants. Orchid Greenhouse is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take a free botanically themed bus tour at 2 p.m., starting at the Orchid Greenhouse. Free with general admission.

San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden. Open Tuesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619-232-2721.

Offshoot Tours. Volunteer-guided, with various topics covered, Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. Free. 619-235-1121.

Interpretive Walks. Volunteer-guided and covering history-oriented topics, Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m.. Meet at Visitors Center. Free.

San Diego Natural History Museum canyoneer walks. Saturdays and Sundays from September through June. Free. 619-232-3821, ext. 203, or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions.

San Diego Zoo Orchid Odyssey. Third Friday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua, New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with zoo admission.

LOCAL GARDENING TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Down to Earth with Tom Piergrossi, daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN (Time Warner 22, Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66).

A Growing Passion with Nan Sterman on KPBS (channel 15, or 11 on cable). Check www.agrowingpassion.com for schedules.

NATURE WALKS

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve in Poway. Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 858-679-5469.

Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden is home to more than four acres of beautiful, award-winning low-water-use landscaping and educational displays. Docent-led tours on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Free. 619-660-0614. Check the website calendar at www.thegarden.org for classes and special events.

Walkabout International. Local guided walks. Newsletter. Free. 619-231-SHOE.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for times on docent-led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month. Bird-watching on the first Monday of every month at 8:00 a.m. Discover the many birds at QBG, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. General admission. 760-436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

COLLECTIONS

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden offers an exquisite Asian garden at 404 Third Ave., San Diego. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m. Free.

The Huntington is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Mondays and most holidays. Admission is $15 for adults, $12 for seniors, $10 for students (12-18), $6 for youth (5-11), and free for members and those under 5. Group rate (10+) is $11. 626-405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

9th Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival

May 5-7, 2006 • Alpine, CA

(Just 30 minutes east of downtown San Diego)

GARDEN TOUR - $15/person

- 6 Bird & Butterfly-Friendly Gardens plus Raptor Rehabilitation Facility
- Self-guided tour • Ticket valid May 5-7
- Stay as long as you'd like in each garden
- One visit per garden, per ticket
- Plant sale at featured garden

Walk-Thru Butterfly Habitat - FREE!

Features thousands of live butterflies in free flight with the plants which support their life cycle. 10 am - 4 p.m. • May 5-7

CHIRP Habitat Hut • 2514 Alpine Blvd.

Educational Seminars - FREE!

Subjects such as creating a bird & butterfly haven; growing organically; earthworms; container gardening; improving your soil & more... 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • May 6 & 7

In the tent @ Viejas Outlet Center Park 5005 Willows Road,Alpine (across from Viejas Casino)

Live Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Birds of Prey • Educational birds and seminars • May 6-7 @ Viejas Outlet Center Park • Check website or call for exact times

Garden Mart - FREE admission

10 am-4 pm May 6-7

Viejas Outlet Center Park

Dozens of vendors featuring garden-related items, plant sales & more

www.chirp.org

619-445-7675

Sage (& Songbird) Advice

BY MAUREEN AUSTIN

Garden tours, live butterflies, raptors and hummingbirds, educational seminars, garden-related arts and crafts . . . these and more will be featured during the 9th Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival to be held in Alpine on May 6-7, 2006. The event's theme is Wild Wings & Garden Things.

The Festival will be held in the open park concert area at Viejas Outlet Center in Alpine, 5005 Willows Road. Featured events include a Garden Mart and ongoing educational programs. Admission to all is free. The Garden Mart will host dozens of artisans of handmade garden art who will offer their wares for sale. Plant sales also abound at this venue. New to the Festival this year will be a tented site to provide festival-goers with free, ongoing educational seminars on subjects such as growing native plants, gardening for birds and butterflies, organic gardening methods, container gardening, how to identify and attract local butterflies, creating a backyard habitat, growing and gardening with earthworms, and more. Bird talks—from birds-of-prey to hummingbirds—will be held throughout the two-day event featuring live birds. Educational programs are sponsored by Viejas Enterprises. Although the casino is just across the street, Festival-goers won't have to go that far to try their luck at winning! A variety of opportunity baskets, heaped with treasures donated by local merchants, will be awarded to lucky winners throughout the weekend. The grand prize, a jumbo rocking "rock bird," will be given away at the close of the event, Sunday afternoon.

SCHEDULE OF FREE PROGRAMS
(in the tent, at Viejas Outlet Center)

Saturday, May 6, 2006
10 a.m. Gardening for Birds & Butterflies
11 a.m. Improving Your Soil the Organic Way
12 noon Native Plants for California
1 p.m. Raptor Rap (Birds of Prey)
2 p.m. Gardening with Worms
3 p.m. Up Close to Hummingbirds

Sunday, May 7, 2006
10 a.m. Backyard Habitat Forum
11 a.m. Container Gardening
12 noon Organic Rose-Growing
1 p.m. Raptor Rap (Birds of Prey)
2 p.m. Up Close to Hummingbirds
3 p.m. Gardening Nature's Way

Free Walk-Thru Butterfly Exhibit

In downtown Alpine, a few short miles from the Festival site, CHIRP's walk-through butterfly exhibit will showcase thousands of live butterflies in all stages. Visitors will see caterpillars, pupae, and adult butterflies—along with tiny butterfly eggs. With pupae hatching throughout the weekend, many will witness this rarely seen marvel of nature! Admission is free. The butterfly house is situated next to CHIRP Habitat Hut at 2514 Alpine Blvd. It opens at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 5, and will remain open throughout the summer. (Hours of operation vary, so it is best to call in advance.)

Sensational Home Garden Tour

The Festival's trademark self-guided tour of six gorgeous Alpine home gardens—bird and butterfly friendly, of course—will take place throughout town from Friday through Sunday, May 5-7. Also included in the tour is a seventh site, a raptor rehabilitation facility, where visitors can get up close to a golden eagle, several hawks, various owls, and other birds-of-prey. Tickets to see all seven sites are $15 per person.

Ticket includes a map, and visitors may spend as much time in each garden as they desire. Tickets are valid all three days. Admission is limited to once per site. Gardens on this year's tour are almost exclusively owner-designed and are among the most creative sites ever featured on the Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour, according to Teri Morgan, garden tour chairperson. Garden plots range from a small yard to one acre sites and are jam-packed with ideas and inspiration.

From a mosaic drinking fountain in a garden on the west side to a mosaic couch on Alpine's east end garden, the handprint of each garden owner adds color, beauty, and a touch of whimsy. A collection of artistic potted gardens on the deck of a dome house is a bonus to the sensational garden surrounding the home. Selected bird- and butterfly-attracting plants will be available for purchase at one of the garden sites. Anyone holding a garden tour ticket will be allowed unlimited access to this garden. Unique water features, plant combinations, and garden art yield one-of-a-kind charm to gardens that all focus on attracting area birds and butterflies.

The Sage & Songbirds Festival celebrates Alpine's designation of America's First Community Wildlife Habitat by declaration of the National Wildlife Federation on May 1, 1998. The annual event is hosted by CHIRP for Garden Wildlife, Inc., a nonprofit habitat education corporation. Proceeds benefit habitat education programs for our schoolyards and backyards.

For additional information, please phone CHIRP Habitat Hut, 619-445-7675, or visit online at www.chirp.org.

Maureen Austin is the founder and executive director of CHIRP for Garden Wildlife, Inc., a nonprofit educational corporation dedicated to positively impacting our environment.

Preserve Your Beneficials

BY ELAINE BURDEN WITH BETTY NEWTON

Plant insect and disease problems can be controlled without harmful pesticides. Such common insecticides may be detrimental to beneficials. When used by an organic gardener, beneficials means organisms, bugs, and even fungi that do not harm predatory insects and may retard plant-chewing or -sucking insects. Examples are green lace wings and the ladybug beetle.

Beneficials are least harmed by following a program of integrated pest management, or IPM. IPM is encouraged by the University of California Cooperative Extension, UCCE, who provide useful information.

There are numerous beneficials in forms we don't easily recognize, such as larvae of the convergent lady beetle. Appearing to be an ugly invader that we want to get rid of, the voracious larvae consume many hundreds more aphids and mealybugs than do the adults. Unlike its parent, which is not predacious, the green lacewing larvae looks in form and color like lady beetle larvae. It prefers aphids but feeds on mites also. The predator that most voraciously eats everything, including her mate, is the praying mantis. She is a machine physically designed to capture and very efficiently dispose of anything that moves. There exist many other naturally occurring predacious insects, as well as those genetically altered to not be affected by sprays used to control pests. Pesticide sprays derived from botanicals have been useful deterrents.

Oil of lemon grass, extract of neem oil, and dimethysulfoxide (DMSO), a wood byproduct smelling like garlic, are active ingredients in products for control of pests and do little harm, if any, to the good bugs.

FOUR WEBSITES AND TWO BOOKS THAT OFFER MORE INFORMATION ON BENEFICIAL INSECTS:

groworganic.com (a farm supply)
organicgardening.com (questions and products)
bioscape.com (for IPM Service)
thenaturalgarden.com
Eric Grissel's *Insects and Gardens*
UCCE's *Natural Enemies Handbook*

Products with the active ingredients (brace yourself) cyfluthrin, imidacloprid, and pyrethrins will kill pests and hurt some beneficials. Insecticidal soap, containing salts of potassium, exfoliates the protective waxy coating of insects, rendering them more susceptible to disease. Horticultural oil acts as a suffocant in controlling scale before the crawlers emerge from the protective lerp.

A frequent power spray of water is effective in maintaining plant health by its removal of dust where insect eggs are protected from predators. Forceful squirting with a hose is the least invasive method of control by virtue of being least harmful to the beneficials that are left to do their job of control.

There seems to be a system in nature and we can help it. By not killing beneficials, we allow them to reduce the populations of rasping, chewing, sucking bad bugs. When you see a bug, do not automatically reach for some now out-of-date insecticide.

Long-time professional gardener Elaine Burden has previously written for California Garden *on maintaining soil and fertilizing—all with natural products*

MOVING? Please let us know.

Help us keep membership costs down by informing us of your new address promptly. Fill out this form and fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to SDFA, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622.

OLD ADDRESS

Name_____

Address_____

_____

City, State ZIP_____

NEW ADDRESS

Name_____

Address_____

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City, State ZIP_____

Plants for the Mamas

(but Not the Papas)

By Pat Pawlowski

Almost everybody brings roses or some other kind of predictable plant to their mom on her "Special Day."

Why be like everyone else?

Here is a list of plants that fairly scream "And now for something totally different . . ."

Another plus: These plants all have the word *mother* in their names. What could be more appropriate to give a mother than a Mother's Dream Daylily (*Hemerocallis* "Mother's Dream") or a Mother Spleenwort (*Asplenium bulbiferum*)?

The Best and Brightest

Mother of Thyme (*Thymus praecox arcticus*)
This petite 2-6"-high sun-loving, drought-tolerant groundcover is for moms who might need small greenery between stepping stones or flagstones. It's also for moms who like to cook, since leaves can be used in seasoning. And also for moms who like its distinctive fragrance (after bathing, the freshly washed ancient Greeks would include oil of thyme in their massage). And, last but not least, it's for moms who complain that they "just don't have enough thyme."

Mother Spleenwort (*Asplenium bulbiferum*)
A lovely fern, mother spleenwort is very graceful. It can be grown indoors or outdoors with shade. It has light green fronds that produce baby plantlets that can be removed and planted elsewhere. Indeed, given sufficient thyme, your gift plant could provide your mom enough little ones to start a fern farm. Or not.

Snowberry "Mother of Pearl" (*Symphoricarpos* "Mother of Pearl")
Your wildlife gardener mom would appreciate this hardy shrub. Its small blush-white flowers attract beneficial insects, and its lovely white (blushed with pink) berries beckon to many gourmandizing birds.

Peony "Mother's Choice" (*Paeonia* "Mother's Choice")
Peony-preferring moms will love this hybrid available from peonyparadise.com. The very large fragrant flowers are creamy white, sometimes edged in red. Plants are 34" tall, with strong stems.

Daylily "Mother's Dream" (*Hemerocallis* "Mother's Dream")
This lily reaches 23" in height. The 5.5" blooms are a medium lavender with lots of pink tones. Superb rebloom. In general, daylilies are one of the toughest customers in the garden. They adapt to almost any kind of soil and are generally pest-free. They make good cut flowers too.

Daylily "Mother's Joy" (*Hermerocallis* "Mother's Joy")
Another daylily for moms who just can't get enough daylilies. This one has bright clear lavender flowers with dark rich purple eyes. Flowers are edged with silver and have a yellow throat.

Mother-of-Thousands (*Kalanchoe daigremontiana*)
Indoor moms will love this upright, single-stemmed house plant 1 1/2-3' tall. Leaves are fleshy, 6-8" long and about 1 1/4" inches wide. Grayish green, spotted red leaf edges are notched; young plants sprout in notches and may root on the plant. Diminutive grayish purple flowers bloom in clusters. Another common name for this plant is Devil's Backbone, which brings us to . . .

The Dark Side

For some people, there is another kind of mother to consider: The mother-in-law.

To whom it may concern, here is a rhetorical question: Does the thought of your mother-in-law bring to mind the theme music from the movie *Jaws*? If so, following is a list of plants with which to placate this sweet misunderstood creature.

Mother-in-Law Tongue or Snake Plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata*)

This is a columnar house plant with nearly vertical leaves. Very easy to grow anywhere except in total darkness. Uncomplaining (how about *that*?). While watering, do not overindulge the plant. But be careful; some varieties can grow to over five feet in height. Flowers are said to be unsightly, but you can't have everything.

Mother-in-Law or Split Leaf Philodendron (*Monstera deliciosa*)

Another plant that is easy to grow but bears watching. Contained in a pot indoors, its attractive glossy perforated leaves lend a tropical stylish air to its surroundings. Planted in open ground outdoors, it eventually reaches great size. Treat it nice by giving it regular water and some shade. Treat yourself nice by not eating it, since its leaves are toxic and can cause excessive drooling, vomiting, and difficulty in swallowing.

Mother-in-Law Plant or Dumbcane (*Dieffenbachia spp.*)

The leaves of many varieties are strikingly variegated; leaf colors range from dark green to chartreuse, with variegations of white or ivory. This is a versatile house plant that takes some aridity. Several kinds can grow taller than you. Again, the drawback is the presence of toxins that can cause speech impairment (with some of your acquaintances, perhaps not really a disadvantage). Can also cause necrosis of tissue and keratoconjunctivitis.

A Really Big Show

If you really want to make the biggest of all hits, present that special mama in your life with a quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). According to the *Mother Earth News*, there is a beautiful grove of 47,000 aspens in Utah's Wasatch Mountains considered to be a single living unit, the biggest living thing. According to a team of Colorado professors, all 47,000 stems (trunks) began with one little seed. Aspens most commonly reproduce asexually, through the root; the vertical shoots grow upwards, forming stems that eventually become trunks. Somewhat unkindly, it is said that their method of root reproduction makes aspens difficult to get rid of—the mother-in-law of plant life. Sun and much moisture will help them flourish, but keep their invasive roots away from septic tanks and leach lines. In warmer climates like the San Diego area, they may be short-lived.

So maybe you just better go with the roses.

Text © copyright 2006 by Pat Pawlowski, a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty

BY KATHY TAYLOR DE MURILLO

The 9 best and worst plant choices for new San Diego gardeners.

Whether you have just moved here from another climate or are just starting your very first garden, you should enjoy the following easy-care, water-wise, and friendly plants. These plants can help make your first gardening experience more successful. They can give you a garden that will astonish your visitors from back home. Why waste time and money and have to endure the disappointment of having plants that do not perform well?

San Diego has a droughtlike, Mediterranean climate. Rain is a rarity. Thus, the smart new gardener selects plants that are drought-tolerant while easy to care for and pest-free. The following trees, shrubs, and perennials are great choices for the new gardener and will give your garden the wow factor.

Trees

What garden in Southern California would be complete without the palm tree? Palm trees are synonymous with San Diego landscape. The King Palm (*archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) grows quickly up to 60 feet tall and does not require trimming as it cleans itself. The Kentia Palm (*howea forsteriana*) grows slowly up to 30 feet and requires occasional trimming. The Mediterranean Fan Palm (*chamaerops humilis*) can reach 20 feet tall and does well in all climates of San Diego county, even high altitude areas that get light snow in winter.

Two spectacular large flowering trees are the Jacaranda and the Naked Coral. Besides being the official tree of San Diego, the jacaranda (*jacaranda mimosifolia*) tree is the most spectacular in any garden when it is in full bloom and covered with wonderful lavender-blue flowers. The jacaranda grows slowly and reaches heights of 30 to 60 feet. June and July are peak blooming season, and while this tree is considered messy, many gardeners find the lavender-blue carpet of fallen blossoms to be a perk.

The Naked Coral Tree (*erythrina coraloides*) grows to about 25 feet tall and is just as wide. What makes it so dramatic is that the bright orange flower clusters appear at the tips of the limbs in the spring while the branches are still bare of leaves.

The Flowering Peach Tree (*prunus persica*) "Helen Borchers" reaches about 15 feet and is grown for its beautiful display of bright pink blossoms in February and March, often continuing into spring. This is a lovely, easy-care tree to use as the focal point of a large flower bed. White flowers, rather than pink, appear on the Evergreen Pear (*pyrus kawakamii*) in February and March. This tree is less than 25 feet tall and is one of the few Southern California trees that shows great color in fall, when the leaves turn gold and orange. A trademark small tree for San Diego gardens is the Olive (*olea europaea*). This slow grower reaches heights of 25 to 30 feet and has a lovely gnarled and picturesque look, making it a perfect garden focal point. The gray coloring enhances all the other colors in the garden (adding gray-colored plant material is a trick that adds an interesting look and feel to a garden). Olive trees are also drought-resistant and grow in any soil type.

No San Diego garden would really feel Mediterranean without a citrus tree of one kind or another. My favorite is the Mexican Lime, sometimes called Bartender's Lime. These limes are great for making margaritas. This sturdy little tree is about 10 feet tall and produces small, yellow limes all year long. Two of the other best performing citrus trees in our area are the "Bearss" Lime and the "Meyer" Lemon. Other wonderful fruit trees for San Diego are the avocado, pomegranate, guava, cherimoya, fig, and persimmon.

Shrubs

India Hawthorn (*rhaphiolepis*) is a common shrub. It can be used in a variety of landscape scenarios, from ground cover to large hedge. Pruning can keep them low or you can let them become large, informal background plantings. They grow in full sun to light shade and are drought-tolerant. In the late fall to late spring, they bloom with pink flowers followed by dark blue berries. New leaves in early spring are reddish-bronze-colored.

6 The shady side of the house is the perfect spot for a camellia (*theaceae*). The most popular are the C. japonica or Japanese camellias. They can grow much taller, but most plants are about 4 to 6 feet tall. This is a fairly easy-to-care-for evergreen shrub with wonderful roselike flowers (camellias are lovely along a shady wall when paired with the cyclamen, a small perennial plant with blossoms in the same colors as camellias). Some of the easiest and most popular varieties of camellia are "Adolphe Audusson," which blooms from January to March with very large, dark red flowers; "Alba Plena," which blooms from October to January with large, white, double flowers; "Chandler," a very large rose pink camellia that blooms from January to March; and "Guilio Nuccio," a very large semidouble flower that blooms midseason (January to March). Many consider this to be the world's finest camellia. (One excellent source for purchasing camellias is Nuccio's Nurseries, growers of rare camellias since 1935. Their phone number is 626-794-3383.)

Perennials

7 Geraniums—so easy, so pretty, so colorful, so scented, so edible, and so not geraniums. What does this mean? Well, although *geranium* is what most gardeners call them, they are really pelargonium (*geraniaceae*). However, for the sake of sanity, we shall call them geraniums. Everybody else does. Folks from colder climates know them as houseplants, but here in Southern California, they are common garden plants. Geraniums are the easiest of anything to grow and not really common at all. Consider this: Geraniums come in many colors, many leaf shapes and variegations, and many scents. They are also edible. In my garden, they are a favorite, especially the scented ones, and those with fuzzy and variegated leaves. Children love them, I love them, and so should you, the new gardener. Geraniums are divided into three groups: Lady Washington, Common (which includes the fancy-leafed, variegated colored-leafed), and Ivy Geranium. They do well in any soil and require little to no care in full sun to light shade. Some of the scented ones are chocolate, lime, mint, rose, and many others. The flowers range from whites to pinks, oranges, reds, purples, lavenders, and multicolored. If you like a geranium in someone's garden, you could ask for a sprig, stick it in the ground, keep it watered for about a week or so, and have a new geranium plant. So easy.

8 Bird of paradise (*strelitzia*) is another must-have. It grows in full sun to light shade and produces spectacular orange and dark blue birdlike flowers almost year-round. They are easy to care for and water-wise. The flowers make lovely, long lasting arrangements in the home.

9 A San Diego landscape favorite is the lovely Lily-of-the-Nile (*agapanthus*). This plant grows and blooms in full to almost no sun. Once established, it needs almost no watering. Agapanthus grow 2 to 3 feet tall but also come in dwarf varieties that are only 1 to 1 1/2 feet tall.

There you have it, new gardener. Go for it. Plan, purchase (you can find a local nursery by checking out the advertising in this magazine), and get out there in the dirt!

Kathy Taylor de Murillo is a San Diego coastal gardener, floral arranger, gourmet cook, and margarita blender extraordinaire. She teaches floral design workshops, gives floral design and flower/food programs for garden clubs and other groups, and is studying to become a flower show judge.

But what *not* to plant? That is the question . . .

▸Do not bother with tulip (*tulipa*), unless you live in Pine Valley, Julian, or some other area where you get a freeze. If you love tulips (and who doesn't?), buy them in the pots at the market and enjoy them indoors until they die out, then toss.

▸Rhododendron. It can be done, but if you are not a very dedicated gardener, why bother? They just do not do well here.

▸We don't do peony (*paeonia*). They need to experience a pronounced winter chill in order to bloom. Hey, isn't that why we are here—so we don't have to experience a winter chill?

▸Hyacinth (*hyacinthus*). Here is another plant best suited for cold-winter climates, not sunny Southern California. Sorry.

▸Lilac (*syringa*). Here we have one more that can be grown, but they really don't do well with our mild winters. There are hybrids developed for this climate, but they do not often bloom consistently in our area.

▸The cherry tree—you know, like George Washington chopped down. Well, I cannot tell a lie, George lived in a climate where the cherry got many winter hours below 45 degrees, which we do not have.

▸Do not plant pampas grass/jubata grass (*cortaderia jubata*), as it has become a very serious problem in San Diego and California. The seeds go all over the place, causing new plants to grow and crowd out native plants. It has become a terrible pest.

▸Please don't eat the castor bean (*ricinus communis*). While this is a beautiful shrub, the seeds are highly poisonous. The problem is that the seeds are very attractive to children and it is just better not to have the temptation available.

▸The apple tree. Again, our mild winter climate does not provide enough cold for most standard varieties of apple. There are some varieties that require less, however. Why not plant a nice guava instead—or better yet, the Bartender's Lime?

It's Your Library

BY JEAN HUGHES

Perhaps there are some San Diego Floral Association members who either are not aware of the immense library available to them or have never had occasion to use it. However, there are many nonmembers who are not only aware of the library but who also make use of it. The library recently had a visitor from Brunei who sought out the library because she had been told that we were the largest botanical library in Southern California. This has not been verified, but with our 3,950 volumes, we are certainly on safe ground in claiming to be the largest botanical library south of Los Angeles! Another example of nonmember awareness is a recent request from the Glen Arm Garden Club in the Baltimore, Maryland, area wanting information about Kate Sessions and the hibiscus named for her (the club is doing a year-long exhibit on women in horticulture).

The library has existed in its present form since 1984. An account of the early days appeared in the May/June 1995 issue of *California Garden*; this article, written by Elsie Topham, elaborates on how she, at the instigation of Barbara Jones, organized the loose collection of volumes and established the system still used for processing and shelving items in today's library. Ms. Topham also acknowledged the considerable clerical work donated at that time by Edalee Harwell and Elizabeth Glover.

A major upgrade of the library was the computerized catalog project undertaken by Rosaleen Cox around 1995. She has also provided printed updates from the computerized records arranged by author, title, and subject as well as a printed subject guide posted prominently in the library for the convenience of browsers and those who aren't comfortable with computers. It is Ms. Cox's printed lists that are the initial access points for library users. It is easy for the user to go from the lists and find the shelves where the books are arranged by Dewey subject numbers and then by author within the numbers.

While there are some items that are only part of the reference section and do not circulate, the vast majority of the book collection is for circulation among association members. Some reference items are not kept on open shelves because they cannot be easily replaced or they are fragile and require careful handling; they are instead locked in a special case.

Ms. Cox has printed out separate lists of these items; those reference items on open shelves are designated R and those in the locked case, XR.

Currently, the library has two main sources for acquiring books. One method is that individuals donate their own books or buy books as memorials. Whenever a book is donated as a memorial, a bookplate is attached acknowledging both the honoree and the donor. The other method is that publishers will donate review copies of new publications. Once a review of a book has appeared in *California Garden* magazine, the book is added to the collection.

While most of the library collection are books, magazines and newsletters from various botanically related organizations are also available. These items are not listed in the computer, but they are recorded by the office staff in a log book. Of course, these items are readily available for library users.

Any visitor to the library will see that there is next to no possibility of expanding or adding new shelves. This being the case, a need for culling the present collection is being felt. An effort to remove excessive duplicate titles or those that are crumbling on the shelves will probably be undertaken. An effort will also be made to request the return of those books that have been in some members' homes too long. This is so that an accurate inventory can be made and the computerized catalog modified as needed.

Another observation about the present and future association library is that strictly keeping the collection limited to plant-related subjects will increase the relevance level for both members and visitors and be the most efficient use of the limited shelving space. Donations of all sorts will continue to be accepted; those items that do not fall into the subject parameters of the collection can be sold to benefit the association at large.

Enjoy the library, and please feel free to visit us during open hours to make great use of it yourself.

SDFA Librarian Jean Hughes is the book and video review editor for California Garden.

REVIEWS

Did you know? All the books reviewed in *California Garden* are in the San Diego Floral Association library!

The Gourmet Gardener

BY BOB FLOWERDEW

TRAFALGAR SQUARE PUBLISHING

$35.00; hardcover; 192 pages; color photos throughout

British author Bob Flowerdew, a BBC organic gardening expert, provides detailed information on growing numerous varieties of edible plants in his latest book. One cannot help but wonder whether his original interest in gardening was stimulated by his unique floral surname. However, his unbridled enthusiasm for organic gardening is readily evident in the detailed, enthusiastic descriptions of culture methods for a wide variety of edible plants, as well as the lavish photographs, often showing plants just fresh from the garden. He describes a vast array of vegetables, fruits, and even flowers, the latter both for eating (where appropriate) and for decorating the dining table.

The book is divided into eight chapters, with the first devoted to the author's philosophy of choosing to grow only the most excellent edibles in terms of freshness and flavor, as well as concentrating on those varieties that are less available commercially, perhaps because they don't transport well or because the desired varieties are unusual and thus not widely grown. An example would be white asparagus spears, which are favored on the European continent but seldom seen in markets in England or the United States. The descriptions of organic gardening methods are very detailed but would probably best be checked with Southern California organic gardening experts. (For example, his recommendations of rock dust and soot top dressings, along with seaweed foliar sprays and human urine as fertilizer, are unfamiliar to this reviewer.)

Other chapters cover a gourmand's delight of edible plants: perennial vegetables (e.g., artichokes, asparagus), annual vegetables (corn, potatoes, cucurbits, brassicas, and the alliums), tree fruits and nuts, currants and berries, salads and flowers (tomatoes, chilies, peppers, cucumbers), herbs and salads (annual and perennial herbs, lettuces, celery, beets), and perfumed flowers (both edible and decorative).

One cannot help but be thankful we live in a Mediterranean climate readily conducive to edible gardening. The lengths the British must go to in order to grow sweet corn or tomatoes are very labor intensive. Recommended varieties of fruits and vegetables should probably be checked with local experts or nurseries. Stone fruit varieties that don't require chilling and are suitable in coastal areas are available, for instance. Nevertheless, the photographs show an extensive selection of mouth-watering edibles that are quite inspirational.—Karin Kratz

Designing and Creating Japanese Gardens

BY PENNY UNDERWOOD

CROWOOD PRESS

$50.00; hardcover; 192 pages, 80 color photographs, and 28 line drawings

A rock representing a turtle or a tree pruned to suggest clouds—every element in a Japanese garden has symbolic meaning. Drawing on the myths and religious legends of the ancient Chinese who long ago migrated east to the mountainous islands that have become Japan, the awareness of man's affinity with nature has produced a culture based on creating an interpretation of the natural world in an unnatural setting.

Teien is a Japanese word for garden, which can also be interpreted as the contrasting opposites of wildness and control. Combine this concept with the interdependence of plants, rocks, water, and *Fusui*, which are rules of placement to enhance energy flow, and you have some of the basics of Japanese garden design. For example, there are "the three friends of winter": conifers to represent long life, flowers and colorful foliage as signs of rebirth, and bamboo, a symbol of strength that will bend without breaking.

This book, with its beautiful photos, is an immersion into the history and philosophy of Japanese gardens. A general survey of styles as they have evolved through time goes from ritual sites in the 8th century to strolling gardens for meditation to pond and tea gardens in the 16th century and to the more recent style symbolizing geographic features.

Then follow chapters on design elements, plants, water, and structural features, which includes dwellings, teahouses, and viewing platforms. The author, a British landscape designer, provides a chapter on how to plan a Japanese garden in the West and another on how to maintain it.

This is a book rich in information with a special treat at the end: an extensive armchair tour of Japanese gardens, with special emphasis on those found in the ancient city of Kyoto.—Marge Howard-Jones

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

May 2006

CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOPS

May 2, 2006
Two Sides to Every Story—A Duo Design
Teacher: Velma West
Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher, offers the first in a two-class series. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and your lunch.
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

May 9, 2006
Beach Combing
Teacher: Velma West
Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher, offers the second in a two-class series. This class will cover use of wood, shells, and an underwater design. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and your lunch.
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

May 16, 2006
The Sound of Music: A Vibratile Design with Sound
Teacher: Velma West
Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher, offers the first in a two-class series. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and your lunch.
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

May 23, 2006
Victorian Era
Teacher: Velma West
Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher, offers the second in a two-class series. Bring flowers, containers, clippers, and your lunch.
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

All classes 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own lunch. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762. Preregistration recommended as enrollment is limited.

It's easy to register! Just fill out this form and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Payment for classes must be included.

▯ May 2, 2006
Two Sides to Every Story—A Duo Design
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

▯ May 9, 2006
Beach Combing
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

▯ May 16, 2006
The Sound of Music: A Vibratile Design with Sound
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

▯ May 23, 2006
Victorian Era
Cost: $50 for two classes or $30 for the single session.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622
619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS

2006
February 21
April 18
June 20
October 17
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Dee Krutop

First Vice President
Kathy Taylor de Murillo
and Kay Harry

Second Vice President
Michele Kownacki
and Jaimie Fernandez

Treasurer
John Sandy

Recording Secretary
Dolly Hartman

Corresponding Secretary
Pat Singer

Parliamentarian
Laura Crenshaw

DIRECTORS

Term 2003–2006
Suzanne Heap
Fredrik Liljeblad
Annette Reid

Term 2004–2007
Karin Kratz
Amor Poirer

Term 2005–2008
Barbara Forrest
Cheryl Gaidmore
Merry Street

Arrangers Guild Chairman
Dorothy Elwell

AFFILIATES:

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin 619-445-8352
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Tenaya Becker 760-295-8447
Box 9424
San Diego, CA 92169-0424

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
Information: 949-499-5518
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach CA 92652-0742
Email: marshab@gte.net

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

PALOMAR DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: George Speer 760-749-9608
30861 Saddleback Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082-3848

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Exec. Dir.: Julian Duval 760-436-3036
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
Pres: Victor Tongco 619-234-8901
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Exec. Dir: Alexander Chuang 619-338-9888
404 Third Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
1st Wed - 10:30 am
Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501
1455 49th St.
San Diego, CA 92102-2625
1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado
Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Librarian: Joan Endres 619-660-0614
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687
San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
Attn: Lucy Warren 858-792-4273
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
Email: flowershow@sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
Email: vdriver@sdcwa.org

JIM STELLUTI
CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641
San Diego, CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716
2451 Night Star Ct.
Alpine, CA 91901-1449
1st Fri - 10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Veleta Camozzi 858-487-0771
17685 Cumana Terrace
San Diego, CA 92128-1813
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Sarah Tolley 619-421-4964
594 Los Altos Dr.
Chula Vista, CA 91914-4132
2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Claudette Harshberger 619-435-6042
1217 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92118-2710
4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu - 11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Nancy Griffith 619-435-8079
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92118-0188

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Loie Wilkens 619-435-0858
851 "J" Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118-2414
4th Thu - 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marcia Townsend 760-749-4976
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed - 7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg. on Mission Rd.
Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chair: Mrs. Neil Powers 858-829-7944
16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego, CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ann Massey 858-292-9414
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92038-2713
3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
Email: vbluhm@cox.net
4th Mon - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego, CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents:
Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Ave., #40
Vista, CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92025-4853
Email: donnelson12sbcglobal.net
3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ellen Preston 619-255-2110
1825 Sheridan Ave. cell: 619-549-2765
San Diego, CA 92103-1635
4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.

★ POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Kay Harry 619-276-0209
4991 September St.
San Diego, CA 92110-1219
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Masonic Center
1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.
Guests welcome

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Gail Matson 858-486-8969
P. O. Box 27
Poway, CA 92074-0027
2nd Wed - 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Patricia Frederick 760-788-8035
1668 Main St., Suite E
Ramona, CA 92065
2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Public Library

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Donna Ferrier 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483

★ SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joyce McManus 619-449-3230
9943 Beck Dr.
Santee, CA 92071-4509
4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-730-3268
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Surfside Race Place
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Rita Koczela 760-804-7366
7585 Navigator Cir.
Carlsbad, CA 92011-5405
4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Connie Brown 858-453-5363
6327 Benhurst Ct.
San Diego, CA 92122-3021
4th Thu - 10:00 a.m., Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Karen England 760-214-3685
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Janet Judge 858-759-2477
P.O. Box 2248
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego, CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
2936 Havasupai Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117-1641

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Dr.
San Diego, CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET
CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-6746
3435 Jasmine Crest
Encinitas, CA 92024-7036
4th Mon - 10:00 a.m. - Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA
ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
467 Fulvia
Encinitas, CA 92024-2146
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug. Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland St.
San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI
HON BON NO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information: 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting